



News Release



For Immediate Release

USDA Farm Service Agency
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January 26, 2009

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Lamb Checkoff Program to be Conducted

Bozeman, MT – The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) will conduct a Request for Referendum on the Lamb Checkoff Program Feb. 2 through Feb 27, 2009. Persons who were engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughtering of lambs and who provide documentation, such as a sales receipt or remittance form showing that they were engaged in the production, feeding, or slaughter of lambs from Jan. 1, 2008, through Dec. 31, 2008 are eligible to vote.

Beginning Feb. 2, 2009 persons eligible to vote should obtain form LS-86 (Lamb Promotion, Research, and Information Order Referendum) from a FSA county office or via the Internet at <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>. Persons must vote in the referendum at the County FSA office where their administrative farm records are maintained. Those who do not participate in FSA programs may vote at the FSA county office where the person owns or rents land.

Form LS-86 and all supporting documentation must be returned to the appropriate FSA county office by close of business on Feb. 27, 2009. The form and documentation returned by mail must be postmarked no later than midnight on Feb. 27, 2009 and received in the FSA county office by March 6, 2009.

USDA monitors activities of the American Lamb Board. The mandatory program is financed by producers, seedstock producers (breeders), feeders, and exporters who are assessed one-half cent (\$.005) per pound when live ovine animals are sold. The first handler, primarily packers, pays an additional 30 cents per head on ovine animals purchased for slaughter.

Notice of the referendum was published in the Dec. 16, 2008 Federal Register. Copies of the Final Rule and Notice are available from the marketing Programs Branch; Livestock and Seed Program, AMS, USDA; STOP 0251 – Room 2628-S; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, D.C. 20250-0251; by telephone 202/720-1115 or via the Internet at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsmarketingprograms>.

For further information on Lamb Referendum contact your local USDA Service Center or logon to the Montana FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>.

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